

**The Crucible, Act I**, by Arthur Miller**Reading Strategy: Question the Characters' Motives**

Examining the behavior of characters in a story or play is always a good way to increase understanding of the plot. Specifically, to **question the characters' motives**—their reasons for acting and speaking as they do—helps alert readers to important details and ideas that are not necessarily directly stated.

In *The Crucible*, characters' motives are revealed through their actions, words, and extensive stage directions.

**DIRECTIONS:** *Question the motives of Abigail, Mrs. Putnam, and Reverend Hale. Review each characters' words, actions, and the stage directions as you complete the table with your answers to the questions in the first column.*

	<b>Abigail</b>	<b>Mrs. Putnam</b>	<b>Reverend Hale</b>
What motivates the character's behavior?			
Does character hide true motives? If so, how?			
Might character be unaware of true motives?			